

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

**Outcome 1 - Employment**

**Department of Employment Question No. EM1632\_15**

**Senator Lines provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Job Commitment Bonus**

**Question**

To date, how many job seekers are currently on track to receive this payment? Can the Committee be provided with a breakdown by state?

How many people in the current employment services program could be eligible for this payment?

Is it correct that to be deemed to be eligible to receive this payment at 12 and 24 months, job seekers will need to maintain their Centrelink log in?

Doesn't this go against the eligibility criteria which requires job seekers be off income support for a continuous 12 and then 24 month period?

How will job seekers be able to remember and maintain their Centrelink log ins for this extended period of time?

**Answer**

*To date, how many job seekers are currently on track to receive this payment? Can the Committee be provided with a breakdown by state?*

As at 15 November 2014, 16,356 individuals were potentially tracking toward claiming the Job Commitment Bonus, that is, they were aged 18 to 30 while receiving Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) for 12 months or more, but now have left, and are still off, income support. Below is the breakdown by state and territory:

**Potential future eligibility for the Job Commitment Bonus**

<b>State/Territory</b>	<b>Potentially eligible individuals - exited and still off income support</b>
New South Wales	4,678
Victoria	4,184
Queensland	3,651
Western Australia	1,418
South Australia	1,413
Tasmania	475
Northern Territory	336
Australian Capital Territory	172
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,356*</b>

Note: includes 29 individuals whose residential state/territory is not identifiable.

*How many people in the current employment services program could be eligible for this payment?*

As at 15 November 2014, there were 119,980 job seekers on the Job Services Australia caseload who were aged 18 to 30 (inclusive) and had been on Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance (other) or a combination of both for 12 months or more. These job seekers could be eligible for the Job Commitment Bonus if they get a job and remain completed off income support.

*Is it correct that to be deemed to be eligible to receive this payment at 12 and 24 months, job seekers will need to maintain their Centrelink log in?*

The primary method by which individuals will lodge claims for the Job Commitment Bonus will be online through a myGov account linked to their Centrelink online account.

Eligible individuals who do not have a myGov account will still be able to lodge claims for the Job Commitment Bonus in person at Centrelink, however claiming online is expected to be much easier and more efficient for most people.

*Doesn't this go against the eligibility criteria which requires job seekers be off income support for a continuous 12 and then 24 month period?*

No. Having a Centrelink online account does not require an individual to be currently on income support. Job seekers can create a new myGov account and link it to their Centrelink online account at any time.

*How will job seekers be able to remember and maintain their Centrelink log ins for this extended period of time?*

MyGov is designed to enable users to access multiple Australian Government online services (including Centrelink) with one username and password. The Centrelink online account and myGov account both provide help for users who have lost or forgotten their logon details or passwords to retrieve them.